

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 16, 2004. Appreciation is expressed for the allowance of claims 1 and 3-15. However, it is noted that claims 3-9 and 13-15 had been canceled by the Preliminary Amendment filed on January 30, 2004. It is also noted that claims 1-15 of the present application are substantially the same as claims 1-15 of the parent application, further noting that claims 1-15 have been allowed in the parent application. Accordingly, by the present Amendment, claims 1-15 are canceled, without prejudice.

On the other hand, new claims 16-21 are presented for examination. These claims are similar to claims 1-15, and have been added to define further distance relationships similar, but slightly different from, the distance relationships defined in the allowed claims 1 and 3-15. In light of the fact that both of the new independent claims 16 and 17 define a difference distances between recited active areas that is not at all suggested by the cited prior art, allowance of these new independent claims 16 and 17, together with their dependent claims 18-21, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

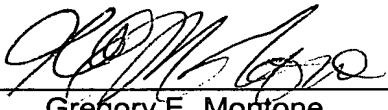
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this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.42265CX1), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX I

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A semiconductor device is provided including a circuit employing two or more field-effect transistor that are desired to have equal characteristics, capable of realizing high reliability and superior transistor characteristics. The transistors which are desired to have equal characteristics are placed in the semiconductor device so as to have the same STI trench width (the width of shallow trench isolation adjacent to an active area in which the transistor is formed). By such composition, stress growing in the active area due to the shallow trench isolation is equalized among the transistors, and, thereby, the characteristics of the transistors can be equalized.